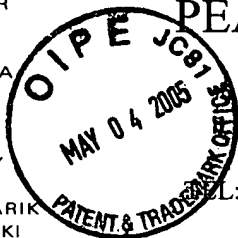


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PATENT, TRADEMARK,  
 COPYRIGHT AND RELATED  
 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW

May 3, 2005

Mail Stop Certificate of Corrections Branch  
 Commissioner for Patents  
 P.O. Box 1450  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: U.S. Patent No.: 6,867,384  
 Issued: March 15, 2005  
 Inventor: Ichihara et al.  
 Our Docket: 36134

Certificate  
 MAY 13 2005  
 of Correction

Sir:

A Certificate of Correction under 35 U.S.C. 254 is hereby requested to correct Patent Office printing errors in the above-identified patent. Enclosed herewith is a proposed Certificate of Correction (Form No. PTO-SB-44) for consideration along with appropriate documentation supporting the request for correction.

It is requested that the Certificate of Correction be completed and mailed at an early date to the undersigned attorney of record. The proposed corrections are obvious ones and do not in any way change the sense of the application.

We understand that a check is not required since the errors were on the part of the Patent and Trademark Office in printing the patent.

Very truly yours,

Michael W. Garvey, Reg. No. 35878

MWG:vlm  
 Enclosures

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Certificate of Corrections Branch, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.

Michael W. Garvey

Name of Attorney for Applicant(s)

May 3, 2005

Date

Signature of Attorney

MAY 19 2005

**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION**

PATENT NO. : 6,867,384 B1

PAGE 1 OF 1

DATED : March 15, 2005

INVENTOR(S) : Ichihara et al.

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Column 20

Claim 20, line 54, after "connected" please insert --with a connected member--.

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PATENT NO. 6,867,384 B1

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MAY 19 2005

- stationary contact member toward a switch-on position and a button-released direction to have said movable contact member move with respect to said stationary contact member toward a switch-off position; and a connecting member for connecting one of said horn projections of said subsequent push button with one of said horn projections of said push button.
13. A switching apparatus as set forth in claim 12, in which said connecting member has a torsional rigidity large enough to withstand a torsional force imparted by said one of said horn projections when said push button is pivoted around said center axis of said horn projections.
14. A switching apparatus as set forth in claim 12, in which said connecting member is a connecting rod in the form of a hollow shape having pivotably received therein one of said horn projections.
15. A switching apparatus as set forth in claim 1, in which said front panel has formed therein a groove, having each of said horn projections received therein.
16. A switching apparatus as set forth in claim 1, each of said horn projections is in the form of an elliptical cross-section shape.
17. A switching apparatus, comprising: a support member having a holder portion; a push button having a rotation shaft rotatably and tightly supported on said holder portion of said support member; and a switching device operative to perform a switching action with the rotation of said push button.
18. A switching apparatus as set forth in claim 17, in which said holder portion of said support member has a pair of wall surfaces held in frictional contact with said rotation shaft of said push button.
19. A switching apparatus as set forth in claim 18, in which said holder portion of said support member is partly constituted by a deformable wall section to ensure that said holder portion is deformed to tightly hold said rotation shaft.
20. A switching apparatus, comprising: a support member having a holder portion; a plurality of push buttons each having a rotation shaft rotatably and tightly supported on said holder portion of said support member; said push buttons being

connected with a connected member made of a resilient material to ensure that when one of said push buttons is operated, the others of said push buttons is prevented from being operated.